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| **CC:** | |
| **Date:** | Thu, 12/17/2015 1:18:42 AM |
| **Subject:** | From: Cousin Rachelee in Pittsburgh, PA. To: Descendants of RochelLeah and Jacob Brog re: The BRCA Gene Mutation is in our family |

Dearest Family, I am writing to let you know that I, my daughter and granddaughter, as well as one of my first cousins and three of her children, have been diagnosed with the BRCA 1 gene mutation. A woman who carries this mutation has a greatly heightened chance of developing ovarian and/or breast cancer during her lifetime....especially during her 40s and 50s. Men who carry the mutation are also at somewhat higher risk for breast and other cancers.

A person who has the BRCA mutation has a 50% chance of passing it along to his/her children.

It appears that the BRCA mutation gene may have been passed down through my paternal grandmother, Rochel Leah Tenowitz Brog. Family lore says that my grandmother died in her mid-50s from esophageal cancer, which may or may not have been the origin of the cancer. (There is also the possibility that the genetic mutation could have come from my paternal grandfather, Jacob Brog). I feel that our mutation comes from the Brog side of the family because there is almost NO cancer on my Mom's side of the family.

Rochel Leah's daughter, Gittel had breast cancer. Her other daughter, Freda, had Histiocytic Lymphoma. And my Dad, one of Rochel Leah's sons, Reuben Brog, had colon cancer in his late 50s. We do not know, for sure, if any of Rochel Leah's six children carried the BRCA gene, but we are guessing that some of them did....and we suspect that this is how I, my daughter and grandaughter, inherited the gene.

My cousin Barbara, the daughter of my Dad's brother, Victor Brog, also carries this same mutation. Barbara's first breast cancer was discovered at age 45. Three out of her four children have tested positive for the BRCA1 gene. As of now, her youngest son, Lance, has not been tested.

My cousin, Debbie, daughter of my Dad's brother, Izzy Brog, passed away as a result of breast cancer. We do not know whether or not she carried the BRCA gene mutation.

7 of us....Cousin Barbara and 3 of her children, my daughter, my granddaughter and I, all have the same exact mutation

I have discovered that one of the male grandchildren of Rochel Leah's younger sister who settled in Johannesburg, South Africa, had breast cancer. His brother had a cancer that affected his tongue.

**Here are the BRCA statistics....**

One in 40 Jewish men and women of Ashkenazic descent (the Brogs and Tenowitz families are both from Ashkenzic descent) carry a BRCA mutation. For the general population, 1 out of 400-500 people carry a BRCA mutation.

These statistics, as well as my own diagnosis, have compelled me to share this information with you. I am attaching my diagnosis information which you can present to a genetics counselor at a local hospital, if you decide to be tested. When you have relatives that have been diagnosed with the BRCA mutation, your insurance will most probably pay for the blood test.

There is also a saliva swab test available through:

http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2015/04/21/401246453/screening-tests-for-breast-cancer-genes-just-got-cheaper.

What can be done if you or your children are diagnosed with the BRCA mutation? For a man, there is nothing to do but to be more vigilant. Your physician will advise you what to look for. For a woman there are several options to take to protect a woman from getting either breast or ovarian cancers. Please check out those options with your physician. If you are interested in what options we have chosen, please let me know.

Please Google all the info you can find about the BRCA mutation. That will help you make an intelligent decision about how you

want to use this information. I feel that **not** all of the people who need this information are on this email list. If you know any relatives that are not on the list, please forward this letter and the attachment to them.

Sending all of you my love and best wishes for GOOD HEALTH for many, many years to come.

Cousin Rachie Sacks,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

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